

NCHRP 8-36

Project Title: An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Asset Management Practices in Transportation Decisionmaking

Problem Statement: Transportation asset management is a set of guiding principles and best practice methods for making informed transportation resource allocation decisions and improving accountability for these decisions. Experience in other industries and other countries have demonstrated the value of an asset management approach for relating investment to the performance of the highway transportation system. Asset management programs hold significant promise to improve decisionmaking as transportation agencies determine how best to spend their limited resources. Asset management should be viewed as a set of best practices to be employed within the established planning and programming framework. Asset management can be used to strengthen the existing planning process and decisionmaking by developing systematic connections between long range planning and resource allocation; integrating environmental considerations throughout the transportation planning and decisionmaking process; and providing a common information resource base to serve activities across the transportation asset life cycle, from long range planning to project development, implementation, and operation.

Legislation, strategic policy, funding priorities and criteria within a State and MPO need to be documented to understand what impedes and precipitates successfully addressing maintenance, preservation, and rehabilitation decisions throughout the full asset life cycle. Documentation of the specific benefits where effective strategic planning and processes have been used is also needed. Comparisons with successful case studies internationally are also needed.

Research Objective: This research project will identify and evaluate States, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and major local governments implementation of asset management and the legislative, funding distribution, formulas and policy priorities used for successful implementation. Benefits of implementation will be documented along with impediments faced throughout planning and implementation. The objective of the research is to relay case studies and benefits to other U.S. States and MPOs. Four case studies will be prepared documenting successes, challenges, lessons learned and benefits.

Cost: Not to exceed \$90,000.

Time Required: 11 months